

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02531 171755Z

41

ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR

SUBJECT: REACTION IN GREECE TO ARREST IN CYPRUS OF
NIKOS SAMPSON

REF: ATHENS 1468

1. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL GREEK GOVERNMENT REACTION TO THE ARREST MARCH 16 IN NICOSIA OF NIKOS SAMPSON WHO HAD BEEN INSTALLED AS "PRESIDENT", FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME AFTER THE COUP IN CYPRUS IN JULY 1974, AGAINST PRESIDENT MAKARIOS. HOWEVER, STATEMENTS WERE ISSUED BY EDA LEADER ILIOU AND BY SPOKESMEN OF BOTH THE COMMUNIST INTERIOR AND COMMUNIST EXTERIOR PARTIES OF GREECE. AS YET NO STATEMENTS ON THE SAMPSON ARREST, AND ITS POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR GREECE, HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM LEADERS OF EITHER PASOK OR THE UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER.

2. EDA LEADER ILIOU STATED THAT THE ARREST OF SAMPSON CONFIRMS THE CORRECTNESS OF THE GREEK POLITICAL OPPOSITION'S DEMAND THAT THE SUSPENSION IN GREECE (REFTEL) OF THE PROSECUTION OF IOANNIDES AND THE OTHER GUILTY PRINCIPAL
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 02531 171755Z

PROTAGONISTS OF THE CYPRUS TRAGEDY BE ENDED. HE

NOTED THAT THE SAMPSON ARREST DEMONSTRATES THAT THERE IS NO BASIS TO THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE'S ASSERTION THAT SUCH PROSECUTION WOULD BE AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE NATION. THIS IS SO, HE CONCLUDED, BECAUSE THE INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT OF A CYPRUS TRIAL IN GREECE WOULD NOT PREVENT "SECRETS FROM BEING MADE PUBLIC" SINCE THEY WILL COME TO THE SURFACE IN ANY EVENT THROUGH THE SAMPSON TRIAL IN CYPRUS.

3. MEANWHILE, "CIRCLES" OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE INTERIOR CHARACTERIZE THE SAMPSON ARREST AS CREATING A SERIOUS POLITICAL MATTER FOR THE GREEK GOVERNMENT. ITS STATEMENT NOTES THAT THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT REMAINS INSISTENT IN MAINTAINING THAT THE POSTPONEMENT OF A CYPRUS TRIAL HERE IS NECESSARY IN ORDER NOT TO HARM THE NATIONAL INTEREST. "CAN IT BE POSSIBLE," THE STATEMENT ASKS, "FOR ONE TO MAINTAIN THAT THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT BY ARRESTING AND PROSECUTING SAMPSON, THE AGENT OF THE AMERICAN-NATO-IMPERIALISTS AND JUNTIST COUP PLOTTERS, INJURES THE NATIONAL INTEREST." FINALLY, THE PRESS OFFICE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR "REPEATS ITS PREVIOUS DEMAND AND TODAY CALLS UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO ABANDON ITS STANCE OF ESSENTIALLY COVERING UP FOR THOSE GUILTY OF THE GREAT NATIONAL CRIME AGAINST CYPRUS."
KUBISCH

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